

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 5895, ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on H.R. 5895:

Messrs. FRELINGHUYSEN, SIMPSON, CARTER of Texas, CALVERT, FORTENBERRY, FLEISCHMANN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Messrs. VISCLOSKEY, RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

There was no objection.

INSISTING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMPLY WITH REQUESTS AND SUBPOENAS

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 971, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 970) insisting that the Department of Justice fully comply with the requests, including subpoenas, of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the subpoena issued by the Committee on the Judiciary relating to potential violations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act by personnel of the Department of Justice and related matters, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 971, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 970

Whereas “the power of the Congress to conduct investigations is inherent in the legislative process. That power is broad. It encompasses inquiries concerning the administration of existing laws as well as proposed or possibly needed statutes [and] comprehends probes into departments of the Federal Government to expose corruption, inefficiency or waste.” (Watkins v. United States (354 U.S. 178, 187));

Whereas a necessary corollary of Congress’s oversight and investigative authority is the power to issue and enforce subpoenas. The “[i]ssuance of subpoenas . . . has long been held to be a legitimate use by Congress of its power to investigate.” (Eastland v. U.S. Serviceman’s Fund (421 U.S. 491, 504));

Whereas Chairman Devin Nunes of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives requested information on potential abuses of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in a March 8, 2017, letter to the Department of Justice;

Whereas the Committee reviewed responsive documents on March 17, 2017, but thereafter the Department of Justice refused to make the documents available;

Whereas Chairman Nunes issued a subpoena on August 24, 2017, to include the documents sought on March 8, 2017;

Whereas the Department of Justice came to substantially comply with the subpoena 10

months after the subpoena and more than one year from the original request;

Whereas Chairman Nunes sought documents related to 9 current or former Department of Justice personnel in a March 23, 2018, letter;

Whereas the Department of Justice complied with the request relating to one individual on May 8, 2018, but has yet to fully comply with the other requests;

Whereas Chairman Nunes sent a letter classified “SECRET” on April 24, 2018, followed by a subpoena on April 30, 2018, which demanded the production of all documents related to the issue identified in the earlier letter;

Whereas compliance with this letter and subpoena has to date been limited to briefings and access to supporting documents, which have not been provided to all of the Members and cleared staff of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence;

Whereas the exclusion of the Members and cleared staff from access to these briefings and supporting documents amounts to non-compliance with the April 30 subpoena;

Whereas, on October 24, 2017, the Committees on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform opened a joint investigation into the decisions made by the Department of Justice in 2016 and 2017 related to its handling of the investigation of the emails of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton;

Whereas, on November 3, 2017, Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Gowdy, and four Members of Congress sent a letter to Attorney General Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein requesting 5 specific categories of documents;

Whereas, on December 12, 2017, Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Gowdy, and other Members sent a letter emphasizing the expectation that the Department of Justice provide all requested documents as well as a privilege log;

Whereas, on February 1, 2018, Chairman Goodlatte sent a letter requesting documents related to potential Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act abuses;

Whereas the Department of Justice has missed document production deadlines, produced duplicative pages of information, and redacted pages to the point where they contain no probative information;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary issued a subpoena to Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein on March 22, 2018, which compelled him to produce, among other things—

(1) all documents and communications referring or relating to internal Department of Justice or Federal Bureau of Investigation management requests to review, scrub, report on, or analyze any reporting of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act collection involving, or coverage mentioning, the Trump campaign or the Trump administration;

(2) all documents and communications referring or relating to defensive briefings provided by the Department of Justice or the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the 2016 presidential campaigns of Hillary Clinton or President Trump; and

(3) all documents and communications referring or relating to proposed, recommended, or actual Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act coverage on the Clinton Foundation or persons associated or in communication with the Clinton Foundation; and

Whereas the Department of Justice has failed to comply with the March 22 subpoena by failing to substantially comply with the demand for the production of all of these categories of documents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives insists that, by not later than July 6,

2018, the Department of Justice fully comply with the requests, including subpoenas, of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the subpoena issued by the Committee on the Judiciary relating to potential violations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act by personnel of the Department of Justice and related matters.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution that literally is about this institution. And when we look at this, it is about the Department of Justice and the FBI giving documents to this institution so that they can conduct proper oversight.

We have had months and months go by with multiple requests where those requests have been largely ignored by the Department of Justice.

It is time that the American people actually have the transparency that they deserve in being able to see these documents and let them judge for themselves what did or did not go on within the Department of Justice and FBI.

Mr. Speaker, Lady Justice should have a blindfold, and that means that justice should not be meted out to those that are well connected or well financed. It should be even in all regards.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and, more importantly, for this resolution.

This is real simple. It is about our branch of government, the legislative branch, getting the information we are entitled to get as a separate and co-equal branch of government to do our constitutional duty of oversight.

We have requested information from DOJ. They haven’t given it to us. We have issued subpoenas. They haven’t complied with subpoenas.

We have caught them hiding information. They redacted the fact, tried to hide the fact that Peter Strzok, a key player in both the Clinton investigation and Russian investigation, was friends with one of the FISA court judges. That was redacted for no other reason than it was embarrassing.

And, of course, we know that the deputy attorney general threatened staff members on the House Intelligence Committee.